

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 088985

R 281308Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6843
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3262

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, IS, SA
SUBJ: ALLEGED ISRAELI AIR INCURSIONS OVER SAUDI AIR SPACE

REF: STATE 122080

1. CHARGE RAISED SUBJECT WITH EVRON (MFA) TODAY NOTING THAT WE HAD NOT AS YET HEARD BACK FROM GOI RE OUR DEMARCHES IN WASHINGTON AND JERUSALEM ON MAY 1. IN COURSE DISCUSSION, WE REVIEWED SITUATION.
2. EVRON REPLIED THAT HE HAD GONE OVER FILE ON THIS MATTER EARLIER IN DAY. HE COULD CATEGORICALLY ASSURE US THAT GOI HAS NO POLICY DIRECTED AGAINST TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THAT THE SAUDIS HAD NO NEED FOR CONCERN ON THIS SCORE RE ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS. HE ADDED THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, GOI HAD CAUSE FOR CONCERN RE " WHAT THE SAUDIS WERE DOING WITH ALL OF THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT THEY WERE RECEIVING FROM THE U.S."
3. COMMENT: IN KEEPING WITH USUAL ISRAELI POLICY RE OVERFLIGHTS OF ARAB NEIGHBORS, EVRON DID NOT APOLOGIZE NOR DID HE SUGGEST THAT OVERFLIGHTS WOULD NOT OCCUR AGAIN. ALSO, EVRON DID NOT SUGGEST THAT CURRENT OVERFLIGHTS WERE RESULT OF "NAVIGATIONAL ERROR" WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAD BEEN PREVIOUS ISRAELI EXPLANATION FOR VIOLATION OF SAUDI AIRSPACE.
4. EVRON'S REPLY IS UNLIKELY TO BE RECEIVED WITH WILD
SECRET

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ENTHUSIASM BY THE SAUDIS SINCE, INTER ALIA, THE PHRASING SUGGESTS THE ISRAELIS RESERVE THE OPTION OF RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER THE PARTICULAR PART OF SAUDI TERRITORY WHENEVER THEY GET PARTICULARLY NERVOUS ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE GOING ON THERE.

EMBASSY JIDDA IS IN BEST POSITION TO JUDGE WHETHER IT WOULD BE
USEFUL TO PASS THIS BACK TO THE SAUDIS. IT STRIKES US THAT THERE
MIGHT BE SOME VALUE IN CATEGORICAL DENIAL THAT ISRAEL IS
PLANNING TO SEIZE NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA, EVEN IF SAUDIS
NOT LIKELY TO BELIEVE IT. AND, SINCE THEREHAVE BEEN NO OVERFLIGHTS
SINCE MARCH 21 (AT LEAST NONE OF WHICH WE AND THE SAUDIS ARE
AWARE), IT MAY BE THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS HAVE
HAD AN INHIBITING EFFECT; AT LEAST THIS IMPRESSION COULD BE CONVEYED
TO SAUDIS WHICH MIGHT BE WORTH SOMETHING UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
VELIOTES

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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